after the Union Government has taken decisions on the recommendations of the Inter-State Council.

[*Translation*]

Fall in Price of Onion

1483. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of onion has fallen to great extent due to abundant production of onion in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to stabilise the price of onion;

(d) whether the Government propose to relax the restriction imposed on export of onion; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be relaxed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Due to bumper production of onions in Maharashtra in the current year, prices of onion have fallen. The prevailing market rates in the various markets are in the range of Rs. 20–110 per quintal.

(c) Government of India have already finalised market intervention scheme in consultation with Government of Maharashtra to purchase 30,000 MTs of onion of fair average quality from 1.1.92 to 29.2.1992 @ Rs. 75/- per quintal. The purchase is to be made equally by National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Ltd., the Central nodal agency and the State designated agency. The scheme has been approved by Government of India on the condition that the State Government will share losses on equal basis with the Central Government together with previous years' losses and nominate State designated agency. The State Government have not yet communicated their consent to the parameters of the scheme.

(d) Onion, under the Import-Export Policy 1990–93, comes under category of OGL (iv) and its export is canalised through NAFED who along with associate shippers export onion. As such, there is no ban on export of onion.

(e) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Review of Pesticides Policy

1484. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several species of insects and pests have become immune to toxic pesticides;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to review its pesticide policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). In our country the undermentioned insect pests are reported to have developed resistance to pesticides indicated against each: